

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00603 201039Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 BIB-01  
/053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 916

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0603

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR IR US SHUM  
SUBJ: REZA BARAHENI

1. FONMIN KHALATBARY SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE MORNING OF JAN 20 TO TELL ME OF THE REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT A DAVID SUSSKIND PROGRAM THAT HAD BEEN BROADCAST IN NEW YORK AND LATER REBROADCAST BY KPFT HOUSTON WHICH FEATURED REZA BARAHENI SAYING THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS, UNTRUTHFUL THINGS ABOUT IRAN. APPARENTLY THE HOUSTON BROADCAST HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE APPEARANCE OF DISSIDENT IRANIAN STUDENTS IN THE HOUSTON AREA SAYING MORE OF THE SAME. KHALATBARY SAID THAT HE KNOWS THE UNITED STATES (TRUE) AND HOW OUR SYSTEM AND THE PUBLIC MEDIA OPERATE. NEVERTHELESS, THIS CONTINUING SLANDEROUS ATTACK ON IRAN CANNOT HELP BUT BE INJURIOUS TO USIRAN RELATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT RADIO PACIFICA (APPARENTLY ALSO A HOUSTON STATION) HAD BROADCAST DISSIDENT IRANIAN STUDENTS' VIEWS AND THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURE. KHALATBARY SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE BAD NAME THESE ACTIVITIES GIVE IRAN IN THE UNITED STATES, THEY ALSO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION HERE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AMERICAN SYSTEM THAT THEY ARE CARRIED OUT WITH THE TACIT APPROVAL OF AMERICAN AUTHORITIES AND REFLECT A CHANGE IN OFFICIAL US POLICY TOWARD IRAN. KHALATBARY SAID THAT HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE US GOVERNMENT COULD DO ABOUT THIS AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT I REPORT BACK TO HIM WHAT WASHINGTON'S

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 00603 201039Z

RESPONSE WAS TO HIS QUERY.

2. I REMINDED KHALATBARY OF THE NUMEROUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE BY THE PRESIDENT, SECY KISSINGER, AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE US GOVERNMENT ABOUT STRONG AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TIES WE HAVE WITH EACH OTHER AND THE VERY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PICTURE THESE STATEMENTS HAVE CONVEYED ABOUT IRAN. UN-

FORTUNATELY, THESE APPEAR TO HAVE ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION OR PUBLICITY. I ADDED THAT WE SHARED HIS CONCERN THAT DISSIDENT SUBTLE ACTIVITY OR THE REMARKS OF OTHERS OPPOSING THEIR REGIME DO NOT AFFECT OUR MANY MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TIES AND THAT WE HAD GIVEN A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT IT. GIVEN OUR SYSTEM, HOWEVER, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO THINK OF WHAT US GOVERNMENT MIGHT DO BEYOND REPEATING KINDS OF STATEMENTS I ALLUDED TO EARLIER. I WENT ON TO SUGGEST FOR HIS CONSIDERATION ADDITIONAL STEPS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN ITSELF MIGHT TAKE TO GIVE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC A MORE BALANCED PICTURE INCLUDING INVITING REPORTERS OR EDITORS FROM LOCAL PAPERS IN CITIES WHERE THERE WERE LARGE CONCENTRATIONS OF IRANIAN STUDENTS TO COME TO IRAN TO FORM THEIR OWN FIRST-HAND IMPRESSIONS. IRAN MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER SENDING SOME OF ITS MORE DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS AND ACADEMICS TO SELECTED CAMPUSES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. KHALATBARY SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THESE AND ANY OTHER THOUGHTS WE MIGHT HAVE BUT HE WOULD STILL LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE US GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO SPECIAL THOUGHTS OR INSIGHTS AS TO WHAT WE MIGHT SAY OR DO IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE. NEVERTHELESS, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF SOME MEANS COULD BE FOUND TO MAKE PUBLIC THE VERY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MESSAGES THAT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CONVEYED TO THE SHAH BY PRES FORD AND SECY KISSINGER. MESSAGES FROM PRES CARTER AND SECY VANCE WOULD ALSO BE OF GREAT VALUE IN AT LEAST REASSURING THE GOI ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL THAT WE CONTINUE TO VALUE OUR RELATIONSHIP AND WANT TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER IN FURTHERING OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 00603 201039Z

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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